

Conclusions

Most U.S. households realized a modest decline in price-adjusted food expenditures, both at home and away from home, between 1990 and 1998. Per-person total food expenditures were greatest for households in the highest income quintile, for one-person households, and for households with heads between 55 and 64 years of age. Contrasted to this, households headed by a single female spent the least per capita of all

households, even less than households in the poorest income quintile. However, during 1990-98, female-headed households increased their total food expenditures by about 6 percent. In addition, food expenditures in the poorest income quintile fell about 8 percent while food expenditures declined by 1 percent for the wealthiest income quintile. Note once again that these declines in food expenditures are likely due to declines in the real inflation-adjusted price of food, although quantity adjustments cannot be ruled out.